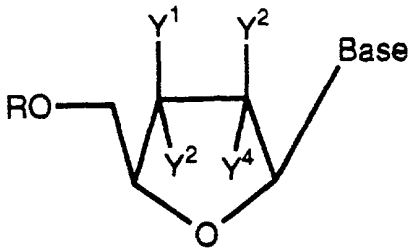
We claim:

1. A method for the treatment of HBV infection of



wherein B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, and Y^4 are independently H, OH, N_3, NR^1R^2, NO_2, NOR^3, -O-alkyl, -O-aryl, halo (including F, Cl. Br, or I), -CN, $-C(O)NH_2$, SH, -S-alkyl, or -S-aryl, and wherein typically three of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, and Y^4 are either H or OH. The -OH substituent, when present, is typically a Y^1 or Y^3 group. As illustrated in the structure, Y^2 and Y^4 are in the arabino (erythro) configuration, and Y^1 and Y^3 are in the threo (ribose) configuration. R is H, monophosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, alkyl, acyl or a phosphate derivative, as described in more detail below. R^1, R^2, and R^3 are independently alkyl (and in particular lower alkyl), aryl, aralkyl, alkaryl, acyl, or hydrogen.